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his attention to the remarkable fact, that they are flattened, like tape, and as seen under a power of forty or fifty diameters of Chevallier's microscope, each hair has the precise appearance of an ordinary steel watch-spring. Dr. M. had repeated the experiments of Dr. Meigs, with that gentleman's assistance, using one of Oberhauser's microscopes, with the same result. Dr. M. also adverted to a prominence at or near the top of the sacrum, which, so far as he could judge from a very imperfect examination of it, as covered with the boy's usual dress, seems to be a prolongation of the spinous and transverse processes over the region in question; and which would appear to be the osseous frame-work of that fatty cushion which is of proverbial occurrence in the Hottentot women. Dr. M. expressed a hope that he might yet be able to examine this structure more carefully, and report the facts to the Society. The boy's head corresponds, in most of its developments, to those of two Hottentot skulls in Dr. M.'s collection, sent him by Mr. John Watson of Cape Town. The mental and moral questions connected with the history of this youth, possess an extreme interest, but can only be correctly judged of after more extended inquiries.

Mr. Ashmead made some remarks on what he considered a peculiarity in the calcareous spar, from the Rossie Lead mines in New York.

The general form presented by fractured crystals of calcareous spar is rhomboedrous. Cleavage is perfect parallel to the primary planes of a rhomb, and is therefore three-fold.

Some time since, while engaged in reducing to convenient size for the cabinet, some specimens of double refracting spar from the above locality, he observed that some of the fractured crystals were susceptible of mechanical division in different directions from those of the planes of a rhomboedron; this induced him to slice off the laminae wherever he found cleavage was perfect, and by proceeding with this sort of dissection, the result was a nucleus, of perfectly geometrical form. It is a solid, bounded by six isosceles triangular planes of similar lustre, or two obtuse three-sided pyramids, placed base to base; it has but one axis passing through opposite solid angles; assuming the axis to be vertical, the base is an equilateral triangle. As the faces are not parallel, but inclined to each other, it is susceptible of perfect cleavage in six directions.

The solid angle of the apex is similar to the obtuse solid angle of the rhomb, therefore, by truncating the alternate solid angles of the rhomb, this solid is produced.

On motion of Dr. Leidy, the Corresponding Secretary was requested to make some further inquiry of Dr. Joel Y. Shelley, of Berks county, respecting the locality of certain fossils from his vicinity, and the depth at which they were found by him.

February 15th, 1848.

Vice President MORTON in the Chair.

A letter was read from Dr. William Maxwell Wood, U. S. N., dated Philadelphia, February 11th, 1848, acknowledging the receipt of his notice of election as a Correspondent.

A letter was read from the Secretary of the Linnean Society of London, dated Soho Square, December 30th, 1847, acknowledging the receipt of recent numbers of the Proceedings of the Academy.

A supplement to a communication presented at the meeting of February 1st, 1848, entitled "Descriptions of some new plants collected by Mr. William Gambel in the Rocky Mountains and California, by Thomas Nuttall, F. L. S.," was read and referred to the same committee, viz., Dr. Bridges, Mr. Gambel, and Dr. Zantzingen.

Mr. Cassin read a paper, containing "Descriptions of new species of Birds of the genus *Cyanocorax*, Boie, specimens of which are in the collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia," which was referred to the following Committee, viz., Dr. Wilson, Mr. Gambel, and Mr. Townsend.

Professor Henry D. Rogers exhibited and explained his Geological Map of Pennsylvania, and also a "Section of the Southern Anthracite coal basin at Pottsville."

Dr. Leidy mentioned to the Society, that he had examined the hair of the Hottentot boy, and that his observations corroborated the statement of Dr. Morton, made at last meeting, that it was much compressed or flattened. Transverse sections varied in outline from an oval to a very compressed lenticular form.

February 29th, 1848.

Vice President MORTON in the Chair.

The Committee on Mr. Nuttall's paper, read 1st and 11th insts., reported in favor of publication in the Journal and Proceedings.

Descriptions of Plants collected by Mr. William Gambel in the Rocky Mountains and Upper California. By THOMAS NUTTALL.

* GAMBELIA. †

Natural order, SCROPHULARINÆ. Tribe, ANTIRRHINÆ.

Calyx 5-parted, nearly equal. *Corolla* hypogynous, the tube cylindrical, saccate at the base, orifice narrowly pervious, the border bilabiate, the palate rather prominent, smooth, upper lip erect; the lower spreading, all the segments nearly equal and oblong. *Stamina* four, arising from the base of the corolla tube, included, didynamous; no sterile filament: *anthers* bilocular, oblong. *Ovarium* bilocular, with many ovules, seated upon a glandular torus. *Style* simple clavate, entire. *Capsule* subglobose, 2-celled, opening below the summit by two or three irregular apertures. *Seed*, [not seen.]—A spreading bush, with verticillate, entire, coriaceous leaves, and axillary and terminal conspicuous scarlet flowers. Allied to *Galvezia*, but with a prominent palate and saccate spur at the base of the corolla.

G. speciosa.

HAB. In the island at Santa Catalina on the coast of California. Flowering in the month of February.

* GROSSOSOMA. ‡

Calyx 5-leaved, imbricated, somewhat coriaceous and persistent, the leaves unequal and concave, with colored margins. *Corolla* of 5 subsessile, oval petals. *Stamina* perigynous, about 25, on a fleshy disk; *anthers* adnate. *Ovaries* two

† In honor of Mr. William Gambel, a naturalist, who has explored Upper California, and made an interesting collection of the plants of that country.

‡ From *κροσσος* *fringe*, and *σῶμα* *a body*; in allusion to the fimbriate arillus.